

## CLAIMS

- 1 A method of containing peas comprising the steps of providing a container mounted on a vehicle and containing a pea load, maintaining the concentration of oxygen at or above 15% by volume throughout the container and maintaining the concentration of carbon dioxide at or below 1% by volume throughout the container.
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- 2 A method of containing peas according to Claim 1, wherein a conduit is provided having an inlet in communication with the outside atmosphere and an outlet in communication with the interior of the container.
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- 3 A method of containing peas according to Claim 2, wherein the inlet faces the forward direction of travel of the vehicle.
- 4 A method of containing peas according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the outlet of the conduit is positioned near the bottom of the container.
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- 5 A method of containing peas according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the container comprises a main part to receive the peas and a cavity to receive the outlet of the conduit, the cavity being formed at the bottom of the container and being separated from the main part by a gas permeable partition.
- 6 A method of containing peas according to Claim 1, wherein at least a part of the container rotates about an inclined axis.
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- 7 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a fan establishes a gas flow through the peas.
- 8 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a gas flow rate, flowing through each square metre of the pea load in a plane generally perpendicular to the air flow, is between  $600 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  and  $16000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ .
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- 9 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein a gas flow rate, flowing through each square metre of the pea load in a plane generally perpendicular to the air flow, is between  $1000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  and  $14000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ .

10 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the container has an opening which is provided with a removable cover and which allows the flow of gas between the container and the outside atmosphere.

11 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the 5 concentration of oxygen throughout the pea load is maintained at or above atmospheric air levels.

12 A method of containing peas according to any previous claim, wherein the concentration of carbon dioxide throughout the pea load is maintained at or below atmospheric air levels.

10 13 A container for containing peas provided with means for establishing a gas flow through the container to maintain the oxygen concentration at or above 15% by volume throughout the container and the carbon dioxide concentration at or below 1% by volume throughout the container; the container being mounted on a vehicle.

15 14 A container for containing peas according to Claim 13, the container comprising a main part, in which in use the peas are received, and a cavity, the main part and the cavity being separated by a gas permeable partition, the container being provided a conduit having an inlet and an outlet, the outlet being located in the cavity and the inlet being located outside the container.

20 15 A container for containing peas according to Claim 14, wherein the inlet of the conduit faces the forward direction of travel of the vehicle.

16 A container according to Claim 13, containing peas, wherein at least a part of the container rotates about a slightly inclined axis.

25 17 A method of processing peas including the steps of harvesting peas, introducing the peas into a container according to any of Claims 13 to 16, transporting the peas to a processing station, blanching the peas and freezing the peas.

18 A method of processing peas according to Claim 18, wherein the peas are then packaged.